

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/724,040	BOLDY, MANFRED	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Abbas I Abdulsalam	2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/06/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12,14-17,20-22 and 24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


XIAO WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 12, 14-17, 20-22 and 24 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Bishop (USPN 5529415) teaches a device (100), which contains a finger portion (12) having a rounded first end (14) and an open second end (16) with the second end adapted for removable securement to a fingertip (128) of a user. Bishop discloses that the finger portion has a ballpoint pen tip (24) secured to the open-end portion (22) outwardly extending of the rounded first end (14). See col. 3, lines 50-65 and Fig. 1.

Regarding claim 12, none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests a device for actuating small keys on miniature keyboards, input tablets and the like, comprising: a dome having an axis, a base surface, an axial opening located opposite the base surface, an axial cavity that tapers down from the base surface to the axial opening, an axial dimension measured from the base surface to the axial opening, and a profile that is rotationally symmetric about the axis, the dome being formed from a soft plastic material such that the dome is adaptable to a fingertip, wherein the base surfaces of the dome and the pin are coplanar to define a single contact surface for contacting the device with the fingertip; a pin having an axis, a base surface, and a tip, the pin being located in and coaxial with the axial cavity of the dome, and the pin extending from the base surface of the dome through the axial opening of the dome such that the pin has an axial dimension

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that is greater than the axial dimension of the dome, and the tip of the pin extends axially beyond the axial opening of the dome; and an adhesive layer joined to the base surface of the dome for adhering and securing the dome to the fingertip. The adhesive layer permitting repeated removal and rebonding with respect to the fingertip.

Regarding claim 17, none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests a device for actuating small keys on miniature keyboards, input tablets and the like, comprising: a dome having an axis, a perimeter, a base surface extending around the perimeter, a tip located opposite the base surface, an outer wall, an inner wall, an outer cavity located between the outer and inner walls adjacent to the perimeter, an inner cavity located radially inward of the inner wall relative to the axis, the inner cavity having an axial dimension that is greater than an axial dimension of the outer cavity, the entire dome being formed from a single material such that the dome molds to a fingertip but is hard enough for the tip to actuate, and each of the inner and outer cavities forming a vacuum between the dome and the fingertip, wherein each of the perimeter, the base surface, the tip, the outer wall, the inner wall, the outer cavity, and the inner cavity are rotationally symmetric about the axis, and the further wherein the base surface and a portion of the inner wall are co-planar for contacting the fingertip; and an adhesive layer joined to the base surface of the dome for adhering the dome, along with the vacuums formed by the inner and outer cavities, to the fingertip, the adhesive layer permitting repeated removal and rebonding with respect to the fingertip.

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Regarding claim 21, none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests a device for actuating small keys on miniature keyboards, input tablets, and the like, comprising: a dome having an axis, a perimeter, an annular base surface located adjacent to the perimeter, a tip located opposite to the base surface, a convex exterior, an axial cavity that is concave in shape and tapers down from the base surface toward the tip, the axial cavity having an axial dimension that is less than an axial dimension measured from the base surface to the tip, and a profile that is rotationally symmetric about the axis, the dome being formed from a material that is adaptable to a fingertip, wherein the base surfaces of the dome and the inlay are co-planar to define a single surface for contact with the fingertip; an inlay located in and coaxial with the axial cavity, the inlay having an axis, and a base surface, the inlay extending from the base surface of the dome and filling the entire axial cavity of the dome, such that the inlay has an axial dimension that is less than the axial dimension measured from the base surface of the dome to the tip of the dome, the inlay being compressible such that a vacuum is formed between the dome and the fingertip; and an adhesive layer joined to the base surface of the dome for adhering and, along with the vacuum formed by the inlay, securing the dome to the fingertip, the adhesive layer permitting repeated removal and rebonding with respect to the fingertip; wherein the adhesive layer is circular and covers only the base surface of the dome, such that the base surface of the inlay is exposed for direct contact with the fingertip.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abbas I Abdulsalam whose telephone number is (571) 272-7685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abbas Abdulsalam

Examiner

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April 21, 2005


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PRIMARY EXAMINER